

REMARKS

Claims 168-177 and 179-183 are now pending in the above-referenced patent application. Applicants respectfully request further consideration of these claims, in view of the amendments set forth above and the following remarks.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of an interview on October 27, 2003, during which the specification, the pending claims, and the prior art were discussed.

The Examiner indicated that the further amendments presented in this Supplemental Amendment C would be favorably considered and should put the claims in condition for allowance, subject to supplemental searching and further consideration by the Office.

Canceled Claims

Claim 178 has been canceled, without prejudice, to advance the prosecution of the instant case. Applicants expressly reserve the right to refile the cancelled claim, without prejudice, in a continuing application. Applicants' cancellation of this claim should not, in any way, be considered as an admission with respect to any outstanding rejections applying to such claim, and Applicants hereby expressly deny any such interpretation. Likewise, Applicants cancellation of this claim should not, in any way, be considered as a surrender of any subject matter covered by the cancelled claim or any equivalents thereof, and Applicants hereby express their intent to pursue patent coverage for such subject matter and equivalents thereof.

Amended Claims

Claims 168 and 179-182 have each been amended, without change in the substantive scope thereof, to more positively recite a microsystem comprising the microfluidic manifold(s) together with associated microcomponents. No new matter has been added.

Equivalents

The amendments to the claims and the arguments presented in supplemental response to the Office action have been made to claim subject matter which the Applicants regard as their invention. By such amendments, the Applicants in no way intend to surrender any range of

equivalents beyond that which is needed to patentably distinguish the claimed invention as a whole over the prior art. Applicants expressly reserve patent coverage to all such equivalents that may fall in the range between applicants literal claim recitations and those combinations that would have been obvious in view of the prior art. In particular, as noted above, none of the amended claims have been narrowed within the meaning of *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co.*, 62 USPQ2d 1705 (2002), and Applicants are therefore entitled to the full range of equivalents with respect to each of the presently-pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that no further fees are required in connection with this Supplemental Amendment C. The Examiner is hereby authorized, however, to debit any such fees or any other fees required in connection with this application, or to credit any overpayment of fees in connection with this application to Deposit Account No. 50-0496.

Respectfully submitted,



Date Submitted: Oct. 28, 2003

Paul A. Stone
Reg. No. 38,628

Symyx Technologies, Inc.
3100 Central Expressway
Santa Clara, CA 95051
(408) 773-4027